

long been instrumental in improving millions of lives, in addition to helping foster strong relationships between the United States and other countries around the world. The assistance the Peace Corps volunteers provide is an outstanding example of the United States' commitment to making the world a better place through not only compassion, but also development opportunities, like language training, youth skills development services, and much more.

One shining example of the success of the Peace Corps has been its tremendous leadership in the global fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In 2010, approximately 34 million people lived with HIV/AIDS, with 22 million of those cases located in sub-Saharan Africa. I firmly believe the work done by the Peace Corps has had a tremendous impact in areas that have been disproportionately exposed to this virus. The volunteers use their unique training to teach HIV/AIDS prevention in a way that is culturally sensitive to local customs allowing Peace Corps professionals to provide essential health services to HIV/AIDS patients.

Finally, I would like to take a moment and give special recognition to the members of my district that are currently serving in the Peace Corps:

Manuel A. Colon, serving in Paraguay from 09-Dec-2010 until 15-Dec-2012

Hannah Gdalmann, serving in Guatemala from 16-Jul-2010 until 15-Jul-2012

Sarah A. Kopper, serving in Senegal from 15-Oct-2010 until 05-Oct-2012

Marjorie A. Larson, serving in Mali 03-Sep-2010 until 10-Sep-2012

Ryne G. Peterson, serving in Moldova 08-Aug-2009 until 08-Jun-2012

Phebe I. Philips-Adeyelu, serving in Macedonia 25-Nov-2010 until 24-Nov-2012

Glenise A. Rice, serving in Panama 01-Jul-2010 until 29-Jun-2012

Thank you Peace Corps for 51 years of global service and leadership.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER JOAN KATHLEEN

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sister Joan Kathleen for her continued contributions towards the advancement of the intellectually and developmentally disabled. As an educator, mentor, and member of St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Oak Ridge, New Jersey, Sister Joan has dedicated her life to bettering the lives of others.

Sister Joan is one of three children and grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After graduating from St. Hubert's High School, Sister Joan went on to receive her Bachelor's degree at Chestnut Hill College. She then taught for several years at local Philadelphia elementary schools. After being encouraged by those in her community, Sister Joan went on to obtain a Master's degree in special education from Marywood University.

Soon after she received her Master's degree, Sister Joan began to minister to those with special needs at St. Patrick School in Pottsville, Pennsylvania and at Our Lady of Confidence School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In 1989, Sister Joan joined the staff of the Department for Persons with Disabilities. Upon her arrival, Sister Joan was critical in establishing the "People Need Friends" program, which remains popular to this day. Sister Joan also coordinates the "Catholic Adult Religious Education" program, which provides religious instruction to the residents of the Department for Persons with Disabilities.

Not stopping there, Sister Joan also provides emotional and spiritual support to the family members and friends of the residents of the Department for Persons with Disabilities. She also provides pastoral care to the residents that are too sick to leave the Department for Persons with Disabilities nursing facilities. Recently, she has had the privilege of organizing the Catholic Charities New Jersey Annual Conference and was a member of the Committee for Evangelization under Bishop Serratelli.

For those lucky enough to know Sister Joan personally, they know that family means everything to her. Her weekends are often filled with trips to Philadelphia and the surrounding areas to celebrate birthdays, graduations, and to spend time her sisters and their families. In her free time, Sister Joan enjoys reading, crossword puzzles, traveling, and Scrabble.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of truly selfless individuals like Sister Joan Kathleen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Sister Joan's family and friends, all those whose lives she has touched, and me in recognizing Sister Joan Kathleen.

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS NATIONAL MARFAN AWARENESS MONTH

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of February as National Marfan Awareness Month and to acknowledge the hundreds of thousands of Americans who are living with Marfan syndrome and related connective-tissue disorders.

I am quite proud that the nation's leading organization working to raise awareness of Marfan syndrome and support the Marfan community, the National Marfan Foundation, is located in my congressional district, in Port Washington, New York. The NMF was founded in 1981 by Priscilla Ciccariello, a woman of tremendous compassion and vision. Since then, NMF members and staff have worked tirelessly to improve the lives of individuals affected by Marfan syndrome and related connective-tissue disorders by advancing research, raising awareness, and providing support.

Marfan syndrome is a rare genetic condition that affects connective tissue in the human body. About one in 5,000 Americans carries a mutation in the fibrillin gene. This irregularity results in an overproduction of a protein called transforming growth factor beta or TGFβ. Increased TGFβ impacts connective tissue throughout the entire body. Patient symptoms often include disproportionately long limbs, a

protruding or indented chest bone, curved spine, and loose joints. Of most concern is thoracic aortic disease, which is when a Marfan patient's aorta, the large artery that carries blood away from the heart, is weakened and can result in a fatal rupture. It is for this reason that increased awareness of Marfan syndrome can save lives.

While there is no cure for Marfan syndrome, research is underway to enhance our understanding of the condition and improve patient care. I commend the scientists at the National Institutes of Health, particularly the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases for their research efforts in this regard. I encourage NIH to continue to expand its research of Marfan syndrome.

Early diagnosis and proper treatment are the keys to successfully managing Marfan syndrome so that patients can live a full life. I am pleased to announce that recently the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology released new treatment guidelines for thoracic aortic disease. We can facilitate proper treatment by raising awareness of these guidelines and we can help achieve an early diagnosis by raising awareness of Marfan syndrome and related connective tissue disorders.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in raising awareness by observing Marfan Awareness Month.

IN HONOR OF THE NISEI VETERANS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize thirty-four Congressional Gold Medal recipients from my District in Central California for their courageous service to our nation during World War II as part of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS), the 100th Infantry Battalion (100th Inf), and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT).

Established on November 1, 1941, MIS graduated 6,000 service members during World War II to provide critical Japanese language capabilities to the American military. These brave servicemen and women provided translation, interpretation and code breaking services in the essential Pacific Theater, which contributed significantly to our nation's victory. In the 1970s, the MIS's name changed to the Defense Language Institute, and all of the Department of Defense language programs were consolidated at Monterey, California. From there the program grew into the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center.

The 100th Inf was largely made up of former members of the Hawaii Army National Guard. It was a unit within the US Army's 34th Infantry Division and later combined with the 442nd RCT, another mostly Nisei unit. Together as a single fighting combat team they saw action in Italy where they earned the nickname of "Purple Heart Battalion." Following World War II, the battalion was reorganized into reserve status but over the decades it was ordered back into active service several times, most recently in Iraq.

The original MIS, the 100th Inf, and the 442nd RCT were primarily comprised of Nisei,

second-generation Japanese-Americans. They faced crushing prejudice and discrimination in the United States during WWII. Many of their family members suffered internment while they were serving their country. This exceptional group has received honors and commendations of the highest level. Our nation awarded the Medal of Honor to twenty-one members of the 100th Infantry Battalion of the 442nd RCT for heroism during WWII. In 2000, the MIS received the Presidential Unit Citation, the highest possible honor for a military unit, and in 2010 the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded to the 442nd RCT and the 100th Inf, as well as the 6,000 graduates of the MIS. At the end of the war, General Charles Willoughby, Chief of Staff for Military Intelligence under General MacArthur, said that "The Nisei shortened the Pacific War by two years and saved possibly a million American lives and saved probably billions of dollars" during the conflict.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be paying tribute to this outstanding group of men who selflessly served our nation during World War II proving the loyalty and bravery of second generation Japanese Americans. From the 100th Infantry Brigade: Louie Hayashida, Tom Kakimoto, Richard Kawamoto, Robert Kitagi, Ky Miyamoto, William Omoto, Kaz Sugano, and Sam Sugidono. From the 442nd Regimental Combat Team: Haruo Esaki, Yoshio Fujita, Royal Manaka, Yutaka Nagasaki, Winston Nakagawa, Fred Sakasegawa, Roy Sakasegawa, and Kunio Shimamoto. From the Military Intelligence Service: George Aihara, Roy Hattori, Paul Ichuiji, Otis Kadani, Hajime Kawata, Shig Kihara, Robert Mirikitani, George Nakamura, Kei Nakamura, Toshio Nakanishi, Terry Nakanishi, Gengo Sakamoto, Setsuo Takemoto, George Tanaka, Frank Tokubo, Ben Umeda, Jiro Watanabe, and Goro Yamamoto. I know I speak for the entire House of Representatives in honoring these heroes.

PAYROLL TAX CUT CONFERENCE REPORT (H.R. 3630)

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concerns with the recently released conference report by the Payroll Tax Cut Conference Committee. While I am pleased that enacting this conference report will stop a tax hike on middle class families by extending the Payroll Tax Cut through the end of the year, I strongly oppose pairing this must-pass provision with legislation that will slash the number of available weeks of unemployment benefits for American workers. I also find it deeply troubling that the text of legislation cutting unemployment benefits for millions of Americans only became available for public review less than 24 hours before a vote, despite the pledge by House Republicans to make bills publicly reviewable for 72 hours before a vote.

Republicans are forcing an unfair choice between tax cuts for the middle class and fully maintaining the safety net for unemployed workers. This is not a choice Congress should have to make, or that the American public

should accept, especially when House Republicans in their Pledge to America promised to "end the practice of packaging unpopular bills with 'must-pass' legislation to circumvent the will of the American people" and to "advance major legislation one issue at a time."

The long-term unemployment crisis and the need for a full extension of unemployment benefits deserve Congress's full attention. This is why I led 70 of my colleagues in writing the Chairs of the conference committee along with House and Senate Leadership to urge them to include a full extension of unemployment benefits through the end of this year. While our economy is showing signs of real recovery with 23 consecutive months of job growth, the fact remains that our nation is experiencing an unprecedented long-term unemployment crisis.

Unemployment benefits are a proven lifeline to families that they rely on to help pay for necessities such as rent, groceries, and utilities. Expansions to the unemployment insurance program enacted in the Recovery Act and subsequent legislation in 2009 and 2010 kept over 3 million Americans out of poverty in 2010, including over 900,000 children.

Unfortunately, the harm that cuts to federal unemployment benefits make to working families is amplified when states, such as Michigan, enact legislation slashing state unemployment benefits. Last year, Governor Snyder signed House Bill 4408 into law. While this legislation included a necessary technical fix to preserve Michigan's access to the federal Extended Benefits (EB) program, it paired this minor change with a harmful and misguided reduction in state unemployment benefits from 26 to 20 weeks, the lowest in the country. Not only does this cut 6 weeks of state benefits, more importantly it triggers a proportional reduction in federal benefits.

Under the Payroll Tax Cut Conference Report, this 6 week change to state benefits will result in Michigan giving up between 11 and 14 weeks of 100% federally funded benefits this year and Michigan's unemployed workers losing access to more weeks of federal benefits than any state in the nation.

Our economy is moving in the right direction and we can't afford to jeopardize middle class families' livelihoods and our recovery by risking the expiration of the Payroll Tax Cut, but we certainly cannot afford to ignore the long-term unemployment in Michigan and across the United States.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE MOUNTAIN QUARRIES RAILROAD BRIDGE

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge near Auburn, California.

The bridge opened for business in 1912 as the longest concrete-arch bridge of its time. Its purpose was to deliver mine material across the American River Canyon to and from the mountain quarries outside of Auburn via a privately-built railroad. For three decades trains rolled over the bridge, allowing the development of the vast quartz deposits in the area

and employing thousands over the years and providing untold wealth to the community.

After the train tracks were removed for scrap metal to aid in the production of World War II materiel, the bridge continued to serve as a public crossing connecting El Dorado and Placer counties. The soundness of the bridge's design and construction allowed it to withstand multiple floods in the canyon that brought down no less than four other bridges along the American River. The Mountain Quarries Bridge was even pressed into service to replace the Highway 49 Bridge, which was destroyed when Hell Hole Dam broke in 1964, until a replacement bridge could be built.

But the Mountain Quarries Bridge has done more than serve the simple commercial purpose of transport across the river. Since 1955, the bridge has been a defining stretch in countless endurance rides and foot races. In the famed Western States Endurance Run, Mountain Quarries Bridge serves as the final landmark of the course and the transition out of the California wilderness into Auburn and the finish line. For the many adventurers, riders and runners who have used the bridge on hikes and races over the years, it serves as a monument to the trials endured in their journeys and the satisfaction and joy of their accomplishments.

Standing a few miles from the confluence of the North and Middle Forks, the Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge is a testament to bygone times when the beneficial use of our public resources was both frequent and celebrated. Having served the many commercial and recreational purposes of the area for a century, the Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge is a fine model for the responsible utilization of the public lands for the public's use.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to rise today and join the communities of El Dorado and Placer counties as they celebrate this auspicious occasion.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MRS. MARY ZUNT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mrs. Mary Zunt, an iconic figure to the City of Cleveland.

Mary was born on August 16, 1939 in Cleveland, Ohio, where she attended Holy Name High School. Following a brief stint in New York City, Mary returned to Cleveland, where she was instrumental in establishing WVIZ-TV in 1965. She was also behind the station's fund-raising auctions. In 1973, Mary was elected to Cleveland's City Council to represent the residents of the West Park neighborhood. She fought for consumer protections, gun safety and commercial development during her two terms on the council.

Following her career in public service, Mary went on to work in the construction industry. She oversaw projects such as renovations of the Gateway and Society Center, Bureau of Workers' Compensation, the Glass Bowl Stadium and construction of the scoreboard at Jacobs Field.

In 1994, Mary left Cleveland and moved to Nice, France to study wine for two years. She